

REFUGEE

Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal

resettlement

Volume 5, Issue 3

June 2004



RRP WELCOMED THOSE FROM NEAR AND FAR

2004 ARIZONA RRP CONFERENCE

In celebration of the millions of refugees worldwide who have found freedom and opportunity in the United States, 235 refugees, service providers, volunteers and members of the general public

attended the 2004 Annual Conference, "A New Beginning: The Refugee Experience," held May 17-19 at the Arizona Golf Resort and Conference Center in Mesa, Arizona.

This three-day event, which served as an important gathering of colleagues and an opportunity to learn from one another, featured stimulating presentations, useful resources, ethnic musical entertainment and networking opportunities. In recognition of how refugees enrich our communities, several workshops focused on the many cultures from which refugees come. The various

sessions represented a wonderful mix of global, national and local issues and informational opportunities for refugees.

With three seminar tracks from which to choose, attendees were given the opportunity to tailor the Conference to their specific areas of interest.

- The Service Provider Track featured such topics as Resettlement from a Global Perspective, Refugee Processing, Refugee Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, How

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During the opening general session, attendees had the pleasure of welcoming Nguyen Van Hahn, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) from Washington, D.C. Dr. Van Hahn spoke about new initiatives for serving refugees in the United States and how these opportunities will impact resettlement in Arizona.



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A LETTER FROM THE STATE COORDINATOR

Dear Friends,

In the course of our important work, we have rare occasion to gather with colleagues and reflect on why we do what we do. This year, we had such an opportunity during our very successful State Refugee Resettlement Conference which was held May 17-19, 2004 in Mesa. In addition to those in our Arizona refugee provider network, we had the opportunity to hear from presenters whose work on refugee issues is international and national in scope. Equally important, we had the opportunity to hear from those who know the most about persecution, flight, and transition to life in a new country — refugees.



We dedicate this issue of the *Journal* to the events of this year's State Refugee Resettlement Conference. To reflect the significance and vibrancy of this year's Conference, this is a full color edition. This would not be possible, were it not for the conviction and generosity of our publishers, The Write Advantage, Inc. To them we offer our deep gratitude.

This edition of the *Journal* should serve as a reminder of the tremendous effort and devotion necessary to save the lives of refugees, entrants, asylees, and others who fall under the aegis of the United States Refugee Program. Moreover, it is further testament to the extraordinary account of those who have lost much of what is irreplaceable in life, clinging to the possibility of freedom and safety, to become upstanding and contributing members of our communities.

Warmly,

Charles Shipman



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The *Arizona Refugee Resettlement Journal* is a quarterly publication produced by the Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program, which is federally funded and administered by the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Currently, the publication is circulated to 400 program providers, members of the refugee community and other interested parties.

Editorial contributions are accepted. Materials will be edited for political and/or religious viewpoint, grammar, style and length. The Department of Economic Security reserves the right to refuse any articles submitted. For editorial standards, please contact The Write Advantage, Inc. at (480) 941-8202 or e-mail at editorial@write4biz.com.

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SEMINAR SPEAKERS SHARE EXPERTISE

Local and national authorities, ranging from refugees to Voluntary Agency experts to specialists from governmental bodies, gathered at this year's Conference to impart their knowledge on the information-hungry attendees. The quality of speakers invited to provide their expertise was well-showcased through their impressive biographies, chosen topics and their method of delivery.

Speakers hailing from widely varied backgrounds, drawing upon their different professional and personal experiences, provided attendees with three main seminar tracks from which to choose — Service Provider, Refugee and Volunteer. The following passages include a more intimate look into one workshop for each track.

The Refugee Track featured such helpful topics to refugees as Buying a Home, Immigration Law and Procedure, and Improving Personal Finances. Tuesday morning's workshop, "From First Job to Best Job," focused on ways to help refugees climb the career ladder to reach or reclaim their chosen occupation, salary or industry.

Speaker Tom Giossi, Director of RefugeeWorks — ORR's training and technical assistance arm for employment and self-sufficiency activities — worked in Africa for more than 12 years on projects with the Peace Corps, United Nations and World Bank. Mr. Giossi also discussed the recertification/recredentialing process, with special focus on the trades, engineering, and health professions. Attendees learned about diploma/transcript verification, evaluation of professional experience and job upgrades.

The Volunteer Track provided attendees with an insightful glimpse into the cultures of many refugee countries of origin, including African, Asian,



Gail Gibbons, RRP Project Officer with Speaker Jenane Al-Dalal

Caribbean, European, Latin American and Middle East. The culture of Iraq, for example, was well-represented through the speaker's first-hand knowledge and use of cultural artifacts. During Monday afternoon's workshop, "Introduction to Middle East Culture," Jenane Al-Dalal compared the climate of Iraq to Texas — with hot days and cooler evenings conducive to sitting in the garden and visiting with neighbors. Dr. Al-Dalal explained that the Iraqi people are very hospitable — welcoming guests who drop in without calling ahead, as calling ahead is considered rude. Fridays, she explained, are holidays spent visiting with friends and family.

Dr. Al-Dalal brought many props indicative of life in Iraq: comfortable shoes made of very tightly woven cord; beautiful silk scarves; and colorful beaded dresses worn when visiting friends and attending weddings.

The mother of four, Dr. Al-Dalal currently works as the Mental Health Coordinator for The Spring Center for the International Rescue Committee.

The Service Provider Track delved into hot topics such as Refugee Processing, and Refugee Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Through her Monday afternoon workshop, "Resettlement From a Global Perspective," Anne-Marie McGranaghan, Associate Resettlement Counselor, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), helped participants understand how a person is recognized as a refugee, is selected for resettlement, and ultimately arrives in the United States. Ms. McGranaghan introduced UNHCR and U.S. resettlement policies and programs and gave attendees a better understanding of the role of resettlement in the international systems of refugee protection. ■



Dr. Barbara Klimek, Resettlement Director, Catholic Social Services of Phoenix (CSSP), second row third from left, poses with a portion of the 30 CSSP staff members who attended the Conference. The large number of CSSP attendees serves as a testament to the importance of this Conference.

CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS



Featuring informational brochures and promotional giveaways — including Frisbees, pens and bumper stickers — the following eight exhibitors displayed colorful and educational booths at the Annual Conference:

- Area Agency on Aging — Region One, Phoenix
- Arizona Immunization Program, Phoenix
- Association for Supportive Child Care — Refugee Child Care Program, Tempe
- Catholic Social Service, Phoenix
- International Rescue Committee — Micro Enterprise Development Program, Phoenix
- Jewish Family and Children's Service of Southern Arizona, Tucson
- Phoenix College — The International Student Center, Phoenix
- Somali Association of Arizona, Phoenix ■



THE 2004 CONFERENCE



ENCE AT A GLANCE



SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING CONFERENCES

JUNE 23-25

2004 Office of Refugee Resettlement's
National Refugee Program Consultation
Washington Wardman Park Marriott Hotel
Washington, D.C.

JULY 12-15

2004 SCORR/ARHC Conference
The Biltmore Hotel
Coral Gables (Miami), Florida

AUGUST 27-29

Lost Boys and Lost Girls Conference and
Reunion
Phoenix Civic Plaza
Phoenix, Arizona



Through a small-business incubation program, the Somali Bantu women of Tucson exhibited colorful, handmade multi-strand beaded necklaces at the Jewish Family and Children's Services of Southern Arizona's booth. Bringing the skills of this craft with them, upon resettlement these women are immediately able to create and sell their necklaces as a means of providing income to their families. Conference attendees were able to purchase this beautiful jewelry for between \$7 and \$22 per piece.

TRACK FOCUSES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a global human rights violation and constitutes a modern-day form of slavery. Trafficking of humans is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug dealing, and is the fastest growing.

According to the Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking (ALERT), each year 800,000 – 900,000



Michele Clark, Jumaina Siddiqui and Dr. Mohamed Mattar, from The Protection Project.

people are trafficked worldwide across international borders; 18,000 – 20,000 of those people are trafficked into the United States. In fact, the United States is a top three country of destination. More specifically, the state of Arizona acts as both a transit and destination state because of its Mexican port of entry.

These staggering statistics gave way to the creation of The Protection Project of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies — with a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement — which provides technical assistance and training to service providers working with victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons.

As a result, The Protection Project, in collaboration with ALERT, offered the Refugee Resettlement Program State Conference's trafficking training program titled "Providing Services to Victims of Trafficking in Persons." This program served to educate service providers as to the most successful methodologies to accommodate the needs of victims of a severe form of trafficking.

The training program included panels on legislation, the certification process, the T-Visa, prosecution of cases of trafficking, victim identification, the special needs of child victims of trafficking, and the medical and psychological needs of victims of trafficking and the local responses to trafficking in persons. Workshops presented by Michele Clark and Mohamed Mattar, S.J.D., Co-directors of The Protection Project, included "Trafficking in Persons: The American Challenge" and "An Overview of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000," respectively.

During her workshop, Ms. Clark explained that victims of trafficking are most often women and girls. While many victims of trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or sex entertainment, trafficking also occurs in the form of labor exploitation, such as

domestic servitude or restaurant work, sweatshop factory work or migrant agricultural work. Force, fraud and coercion are the methods traffickers use to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse.

Dr. Mattar's workshop focused on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) — passed by the United States Congress on October 28, 2000 to provide numerous benefits to victims of a severe form of trafficking. The TVPA must be explained to service providers so that they can effectively implement its provision in order to meet the needs of victims of a severe form of trafficking.

Under United States law, "severe forms of trafficking in persons" is defined as:

1. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18

2. The recruitment, transportation, harboring, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Brochures urged Conference attendees to call the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline (888-373-7888) or ALERT (602-433-2441) if they suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking. ■

LOOKING BENEATH THE SURFACE

Victims of human trafficking may look like everyday people. Look for the following clues:

- Evidence of being controlled (or accompanied by a controlling person, possibly the trafficker)
- Evidence of inability to move or leave job
- Bruises or other signs of physical abuse
- Fear or depression (psychological abuse)
- Not speaking on own behalf and/or non-English speaking

Asking the right questions will help you determine if someone is a victim of trafficking and needs your help. Key questions to ask:

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you being paid?
- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you or your family been threatened?
- What are your working and living conditions like?
- Where do you eat and sleep?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat/sleep/go to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on your doors/windows so you cannot get out?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?

Visit www.protectionproject.org to find out more information.

OVERVIEW

continued from page 1

to Prepare and Conduct Advocacy Visits, Working With the Media, and Our Flourishing Oasis Refuge.

- The Refugee Track featured such topics as Buying a Home, Immigration Law and Procedure, Documenting Your Experience: Making Connections to Individual and Cultural Identity, From First Job to Best Job, Refugee Women Network and Improving Personal Finances.

- The Volunteer/Community Track featured such topics as Introduction to African, Asian, Caribbean, European, Latin American and Middle East Cultures, Refugee Resettlement 101, and Utilizing Volunteers to Advance the Mission of Refugee Resettlement Programs.



Somali Conference attendees Ayan Nor (left) and Sahra Ismaih came to the United States in late 2000. These Phoenix residents are currently assisting with the Refugee PAST Program to help other women from Somali.

Seminar speakers were a culmination of local and national authorities ranging from refugees to voluntary agency experts to governmental bodies. For a more in-depth look at some of these workshops and speakers, see page 3.

In addition, the Protection Project of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies collaborated with this year's Conference to offer a special track titled "Providing Services to Victims of Trafficking in Persons." This program educated service providers on human trafficking and the needs of its victims. For more detailed information, see page 6.

The theme of this year's Conference, "A New Beginning," conveyed several meanings. The obvious one, according to Charles Shipman, State Refugee Coordinator, Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program, denotes the beginning of a new life for refugees who are making the transition to life in the United States. Shipman explained that the title also expresses the changes taking place in refugee resettlement efforts in Arizona, and the overarching global and national changes that have affected United States Refugee Resettlement efforts — the most recent of which are the effects of the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks. "Since the terrorist attacks in our nation," said Mr. Shipman, "we have experienced historically



KEN GRAHAM RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS

After 24 years of full-time and one year of part-time work dedicated to state service, last year Ken Graham decided to move on to the next phase in his life: retirement. The former Program & Project Specialist II was formally recognized for his service during the Conference's Monday night dinner program.

Charles Shipman presented Mr. Graham with a certificate of appreciation from Governor Janet Napolitano, in addition to a clock and a watch presented on behalf of DES. "It's been a real honor to work with the Refugee Resettlement Program," Mr. Graham remarked during his acceptance speech.

He continues to work part-time with the Refugee Medical Assistance Program.

low levels of refugee arrivals, some reductions in funding for refugee services, and misapprehension about the patriotism of many of our compatriots."

As a testimony to the quality of life and resettlement services found in the Grand Canyon State, Arizona has become home to more than 40,000 refugees from

around the world over the past 30 years. As always, the Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program will continue to build upon our commitment to providing a haven of freedom and safety for those forced to flee life's most harrowing circumstances.



Soaking in the sunshine during a break, Mette Brogan, Director of Resettlement with Jewish Family & Children Services of Southern Arizona, attended the Conference to get a read on what's happening on a national level.

PLANNING = SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

The success of this year's Refugee Resettlement Program Annual Conference is attributed to the combined efforts of many individuals and organizations. The 12-person Conference planning committee, which first convened in October 2003, met every two weeks beginning in early 2004.



Planning Committee members Robin Dunn-Marcos and Charles Shipman meet with Bonnie Wood.

In an effort to create a forum fostering person-to-person contact and the shared resources of national and local experts, the committee designed the Conference to meet the needs of everyone committed to helping refugees.

To best encompass the variety of needs and levels of understanding among these groups of attendees, the three main tracks were developed. The Conference

was also aimed at honoring volunteers, not just the VOLAGS, to further encourage a broadened definition of those who help refugees.

Looking ahead to next year's Conference, conference coordinator Linda McAlister of the IRC hopes that even more people will want to become involved in the planning process. "After all," she said, "this is a Conference that belongs to the people."

We would like to thank the following members of the planning committee whose months of planning and dedication helped lead to a successful 2004 Conference:

Mette Brogden, JFCS
 Robin Dunn Marcos, IRC
 Calla Floyd, CSS
 Gail Gibbons, Arizona DES
 Masha Gromyko, Pima College Adult Education
 Sandra Jefferson, LSMS
 Lou Krafts, ASCC
 Linda McAlister, IRC
 Amra Sabanic, TIARC
 Charles Shipman, Arizona RRP
 Hiba Tawfig, ASCC
 Lt. Warren Taylor, Phoenix Police Department ■

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